THE BUMBLE BEE

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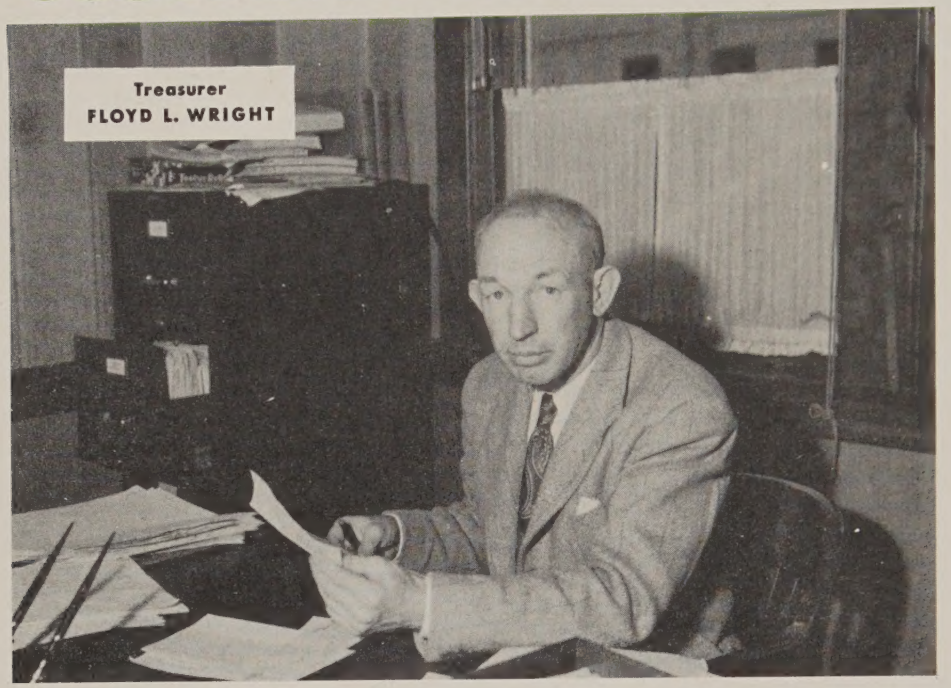
FEBRUARY, 1945

Columbia River Packers Association • Astoria, Oregon

EDITORIAL



Floyd L. Wright, CRPA Treasurer and Production Manager. His experience as a successful fisherman, an experience which began when he was 14 years of age following an apprenticeship in his father's boat and as Superintendent of CRPA Ellsworth Cannery, gave Floyd Wright a background which has enabled him to efficiently and competently handle a difficult and arduous job. Mr. Wright has charge of the Company's production efforts, including fishing preparations, the purchase, transportation and receipt of fresh fish, and the very difficult task of dealing with all the problems that arise relative to relations with the hundreds of Company fishermen. That he has ably handled these duties cannot be better evidenced than by expanding production figures which have moved steadily upward since he took over his present position in 1938.

WHY AID "PRIVATE" INDUSTRY

Oregon's big commercial fishing industry is asking the state legislature to assist in maintaining the resource by an appropriation over and above the moneys which are received from license fees, poundage taxes, etc. Oregon for years and to the present time has subsidized the agricultural, the lumbering, and the mining industries, all just as "private" as commercial fishing and has done this without criticism or protest.

Left alone the commercial fishing industry could take care of itself and meet all of its problems, including that of conservation of the resource, but it has not been left alone and never will. The dams, the turbines, and the irrigation ditches, have and are taking a terrible toll of the salmon runs. Lumbering operations have affected the extent and temperature of the water run off; mining, sewage, and chemical wastes have polluted our streams; and a big and growing sports fishery is taking out far more than it is putting back. These are all matters which the industry cannot control, problems inherent in the development of the state itself; factors which like all such inroads of civilization are inimical to the orderly processes of nature. The fishing industry has been able to replenish the resource to meet its own demands, as witness the findings of the research department of the State of Washington which has found that the fall salmon fishery on the Columbia River is in a healthy and *growing* condition but it cannot meet the problems, imposed from outside the industry, as they affect the spring runs which originate in the far reaches of the river and which must run the gauntlet of all the man-made obstacles cited above, in their migration of the ocean.

Is the commercial fishing industry of Oregon worth the effort? Last year according to figures compiled by the Oregon Fish Commission the industry's gross sales amounted to $27,858,031. Practically all is new money brought into your channels of trade and business. Twenty thousand people gained all or a part of their livelihood through the industry. These people have $23,889,101 invested in plants, boats, gear, trucks, machinery, etc. They paid over three and a half million dollars in state and federal taxes (not including their license and poundage fees). As 90 per cent of its products are sold out of the state is evident that these millions of dollars did much to enrich our state's financial bloodstream and assist in its prosperity. This industry is not a war baby. It is something that is here to stay and play a permanent part in the development of our state. We venture to say that in the course of a year some of these fishing dollars passed through the hands of every business man in Oregon and into the pockets of our wage earners.

The State of Washington recognizes the value of its fishing industry. Last biennium its state legislature appropriated $225,000 to supplement license

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Editor.....JAMES H. CELLARS
Associate Editor....RAE MOULTON

ASTORIA REPORTERS

Office.....Louise Carlson
Elmore Tuna.....Alice Schwarzenbach
Elmore Salmon.....P. J. Burke, Sn.
Cold Storage.....June Larson
Shipyards.....Lura Skyles
Boatyard and Launches.....Johan Peterson
Scandinavian.....John North
Geo. & Barker.....Peter Welch
Occident.....Albert Paldanius
Alaska Office.....Herman Geissel
Machine Shop.....Tom Wooton

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Newport.....Maxine Williams
Depoe Bay.....Lois Edwards
Wheeler.....George Radich
Eagle Cliff.....George Johnson
Ellsworth.....Bernice Loomis
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Altoona.....Laura Hendrickson
North Shore.....Frank Pfleger
Ilwaco.....Wayne Suomela
Westport, Wn......Gene Matthews
Bay Center.....Carl Rozine
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER...Ned Thorndike

CRPA COMPLETES BIGGEST TUNA PACK

CRPA's big tuna pack was completed February 20, when the canning machinery was shut down until the albacore begin to appear again next July. The pack, of approximately 275,000 cases, was by far the biggest ever canned by the company. The pack in 1943 was about 105,000 cases, and that of 1942 about 125,000 cases. Canning started in mid-July and was carried on for about seven months, the operations being conducted on frozen stocks since October. In 1943, canning operations were concluded in mid-October.

With CRPA taking the lead in planning new bait fishing facilities for the tuna fishermen in 1945, and with many new and better boats expected to enter the fishery this year, plus the added experience of the fishermen in catch methods it is hoped to maintain this production in the coming season. It is estimated that the total albacore pack for Oregon and Washington will be in excess of 700,000 cases.

Salmon Catch Starts

Gillnetters began to take a fair quantity of high quality early run Chinook Salmon during the latter part of the month and some salmon trollers were at sea, starting much earlier than they did in 1944.

Smelt receipts from the Columbia and Cowlitz Rivers were heavy as the month started but dropped off sharply after about 10 days. However, another spurt appeared as the month closed which, it was hoped, would add considerably to the previous production.

DePoe Bay

DePoe Bay writes that the CRPA station there has been made ready for crab production. The cooker has been completed and the inside of the buildings have been painted by Nelda Hendricksen and Lorraine Powers.

Howard Anderson's boat "Skip" is being repaired after having hit the rocks while being towed in by the Coast Guard.

Miss Peggie Saling became the bride of James Hendricksen late in January. Both are CRPA employes.

Henry Herlin, former CRPA fish receiver, was a visitor in Astoria during the past month. He is still assigned in this country with the engineering corps, but is expecting to see foreign service before long.

Washington, D. C. Visitor

Mr. L. S. Christey, second from left, shown during visit to Astoria when he inspected CRPA tuna cannery. He is pictured examining the new machine pack tuna filler. Mr. Christey is from the Washington, D. C. office of the Coordinator of Fisheries, operating under the Fish and Wild Life department of the U. S. Department of Interior. He has ably handled the priority problems of the fishery industry. He is a graduate of the University of Washington and thoroughly familiar with the west coast fishery. Others left to right are James Burke, tuna cannery superintendent; Jay Hendrickson, general superintendent; Mrs. Hannah Eckhart, tuna cannery forewoman; and Tom Sandoz, executive vice-president.

Below, Mr. Christey is pictured in conference with Leif Halsan, Astoria representative of his office and Mr. Sandoz.

ALLEN CELLARS Wounded

Word was received in mid-February that Lt. Allen V. Cellars, formerly with CRPA had been wounded in action on the European front. He was fighting with the Ninth Infantry regiment attached to the First Army. No further word regarding his condition has been received. In a letter written January 31, Lt. Cellars said that he had just captured his first prisoners, "two dirty sleepy supermen," whom he had caught in a dugout.

Ten Day Fish Period Starts March 21st

At a meeting held late in February at Portland the Oregon Fish Commission and the Washington Department of Fisheries officials to issue an order opening the Columbia River to commercial fishing from March 21, noon, to April 1, noon. This action follows a similar order issued in 1944 for same period.

Neither Oregon fishermen or Oregon packers or dealers had urged such an opening and had in fact announced that they would not seek such action. However, the Washington officials, headed by the new Director of Fisheries, Milo Moore, strongly argued in favor of the action on the grounds that the production was vitally necessary owing to the current food shortage. They supported their arguments with statements from members of their department of research that the limited fishery would not harm the resource.

The regular Columbia River spring and summer fishing season will open on April 30.

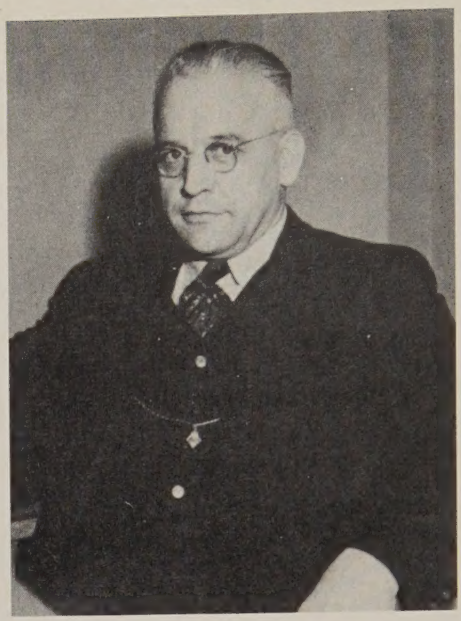
Kurt Kallstrom Finds Label in Mariannas

A letter has been received from Kurt A. Kallstrom, serving with the U. S. Marines in the Marianas containing a Clover Leaf Brand label from a quarter pound can of salmon packed by CRPA. Kallstrom, formerly from Ilwaco, writes Wayne Suomela, CRPA plant manager there, that the label was from a can received by one of his buddies in a package from Boston, Mass. He remarks that Columbia River salmon really gets around. Kallstrom also tells how the boys catch albacore tuna like those taken off Astoria, in the waters near the beaches of the islands where he is stationed. He says it rains every day, "just like in Ilwaco and Aberdeen" but that the water temperature of the ocean is from 80 to 84 degrees and that swimming is fine. Kallstrom adds that living conditions on the island are now excellent and that the only place he would rather be is home.

Hello CRPA

Pat Foster, guardian of the switchboard. Smiles once in while when she isn't trying to get the OPA, WLB, WFA, and NLRB all at once.

JOHN HEAD



John Head, CRPA's new superintendent for Nushagak cannery, on Bristol Bay, Alaska, comes to the Company with a long and excellent record of experience in cannery work in Alaska waters. He has been foreman of the Libby, McNeill & Libby cannery at Naknek for a number of years and knows the cannery problems in that area thoroughly.

CRPA Personals

Franklin "Shang" Knight, formerly Elmore cannery employee, and now in the Army has been spending a furlough with his parents in Wheeler. He was accompanied by his bride whom he married in Arkansas.

Carl E. Pierson, is on furlough from the Navy. He formerly operated a seine on the Columbia River. He has been in the Aleutians and when his leave is up will go to California for reassignment.

Master Sergeant Nick Lasich of Clifton has been visiting with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Visko Lasich of Clifton. He was in Alaska 34 months and following his leave period will go to San Pedro and then to Florida.

SUGGESTION BOX PROGRAM NOW READY TO GO

Think and Earn

Suggestions from you whereby you can do your work more efficiently will assist you, your fellow employees and and Company.

Progress is based upon the application of new and improved methods of plant operation. This includes improvements in machinery, administration by management, harmonious relations between employer and employee, safety features and improved working conditions for the protection of the employee, and a more efficient technique of doing the job at hand. All of these contribute to the general well being of the employee and the progress of the company.

The idea of the Suggestion program is that it will stimulate our employees to give particular thought to the job they are doing, and may thereby be able to make suggestions for improvement.

You are in no way limited to the number of suggestions you can make, neither are you limited in any way to make suggestions only on your particular work.

A Suggestion Committee consisting of executives of the various departments of the Company will make final decisions on all suggestions submitted. This committee will acknowledge receipt of each suggestion. Some time may elapse between the date of receipt of the suggestion and the final notice to you as to whether or not your suggestion is acceptable. You will be definitely advised in writing by the Suggestion Committee whether your suggestion is or is not accepted, and the amount of the award to be made to you if your suggestion is accepted.

COLUMBIA RIVER PACKERS ASSOCIATION, INC., *Suggestion Committee.*

The CRPA suggestion boxes are doing business at last. Boxes have already been installed at the following points; Main office, shipyard, Elmore salmon cannery; Elmore tuna cannery, cold storage, Newport, Depoe Bay, and Ellsworth. More boxes are being made up and should be in place in other plants and stations by this publication time.

These boxes, like that picture on the opposite page, are made to be used and the suggestion committee is eager to start its work. Read the committee's message above.

Think and Suggest

This is a picture of our new Suggestion Box. One of these boxes will be placed at all receiving stations, cold storage plants, salmon and tuna cannery, and main office. We urge all employees to accept this opportunity to earn cash awards. Remember, the better the suggestion, the higher the award.

The Suggestion Committee

BOTTOM FISH FLEET AFLOAT AGAIN

OPA Consents to Margin on Army Business

Astoria's bottom fish fleet put to sea late in February after a four month stalemate, resulting from price difficulties with OPA. The settlement was made after prolonged negotiations with OPA officials. Fishermen demanded their ceiling winter prices while processors maintained that they could not pay such prices and process the fish as frozen fillets and market them except at a loss.

The new OPA order applies only to processed frozen bottom fish fillets sold to the Army. As over 80 per cent of this type of production has been going to government agencies from Astoria processors for the last two years it is hoped that the new order will permit unlimited production. Astoria processors including CRPA have consistently maintained that the only stable basis for bottom fish production at this port must be the ability to market frozen fillets on a year around production basis.

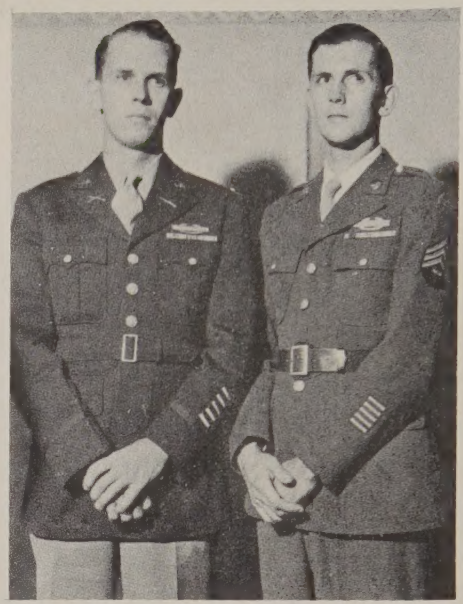
On May 1, the price to the fishermen automatically drops one or two cents a pound and the new price order will become void at that time. Price difficulties with OPA regarding certain species caused a loss of production of some four million pounds of bottom fish in 1944 and the present difficulty has again entailed a huge production loss. Processors regard the new order a victory in their program to make bottom fishing a stable and permanent factor of great importance in this area and are certain that it will lead to a steady growth of this type of fishing. Fish affected are ling cod, rock cod, petrole sole, English and Dover sole and flounder.

Deliveries began immediately following announcement of the order and with weather conditions steadily improving as spring advances growing receipts are expected.

SANDOZ RETURNS

Thomas F. Sandoz, executive vice-president, returned from Washington about mid-February, after attending meetings of the fishery advisory section of the War Food Administration of which he is a member. He brought back reports of probable higher government reservations on the Columbia River and Alaska salmon for 1945, and possible reservation of some of the canned albacore pack. During his trip he conferred at some length with OPA officials in regard to the price ceilings on bottom fish which have been hampering Astoria industry for many months.

FROM SOUTH PACIFIC



Pictured above are Lieutenant Richard C. Soderberg, son of Charles Soderberg, CRPA launch master, and Sergeant Walter Soderberg, son of Fred Soderberg, another company launch captain and a brother of Charles. They have recently returned to Astoria on leave after some 33 months in the South Pacific during which they took part in a number of battles. They were both originally in Company L, Astoria unit of the Oregon National Guard. They had not seen each other for about a year until they accidentally met on their return. Lieutenant Soderberg is now stationed in Texas and his cousin in Louisiana.

Alabama Broker has OK for Bumble Bee

W. M. Meador, of Mobile, Ala., writes to us in regard to the *Bumble Bee:*" "I have just read the Company publication, *The Bumble Bee* and I am honestly very much interested. I can readily see how Dr. Dawson was so enthused concerning your plant and the general set-up. Of course I am interested in the fighting boys. I note that Captain Bill Wootton is with the 330th Infantry. My third boy to be wounded, on November 21, was Lt. Robert Meador, with the 335th Infantry, but I am happy to say that he is doing well."

Mr. Meador continues to state that he is anxious to visit CRPA and adds, "I have been handling fish for the past 35 years and I feel that at last I have found the company I will be really proud to work for and establish their merchandise."

Memoriam

The fate that always hovers over fishermen who go out to sea finally overtook a quartet of well known Astoria fishermen who were caught in the tremendous gale that struck off the Oregon and Washington coasts February 6 and 7.

Those who lost their lives included the veterans Oscar Wirkkala and Albert Erickson and two younger fishermen, Edward Hellberg and Theodore Johnson. They were aboard the 54-foot shark fishing boat the Republic, which put to sea early on February 6.

Revelation of their fate came after several anxious days for their friends and relatives when the coast guard found a 12-foot section of the Republic's port bow washed up on the beach near Beach, Washington. There was no indication of just what has caused the staunch craft to lose its fight with the wind and waves. Other fishing craft at sea managed to weather the storm. The community mourns the loss of four fine citizens.

St. Helens Busy

CRPA St. Helens reports, through Oscar Gerrard, station manager, that the gill net boat shop is completed and full of boats, with a waiting list of craft to be overhauled and painted. The shop is doing a limited amount of engine work and expects to do more as machining facilities are added. Axel Annundi, well known to fishermen, has moved to St. Helens from Clatskanie, and is employed in the boat shop.

CRAB IN THE COOKER

CRPA's John Peterson loading retort with movable rack containing metal trays carrying dozens of crabs. After cooking the meat will be picked from the shell and marketed either fresh, frozen, or canned.

SHIPYARD DIVISION

Boat Repair work keeping yard busy; storage lessens

CRPA ship has spent a busy winter with repairs being made to the yard set-up to permit a concentration of effort on fishing craft and power scows. During the past month a total of 11 fishing boats have been hauled up, repairs made and the boats put into the water again. Framing of the two 76-foot drag boats is well under way and some inside planking has been started. The engine for the Kiska has been put into place.

Installation of machinery in the carpenter shop has been completed and work is proceeding on the extension of the underwater portion of the marine railway. No further work on repairs to the machine shop was put underway during the month.

A CRPA job on the ways is the rebuilding of the house on the big company seagoing motorboat Unga. Indications that spring is near at hand are given by the action of nine boat owners in having their craft removed from storage in the shipyard and placed afloat again. Twenty-five boats still remain in storage but these are expected to move out in the not too distant future.

Why Aid "Private" Industry

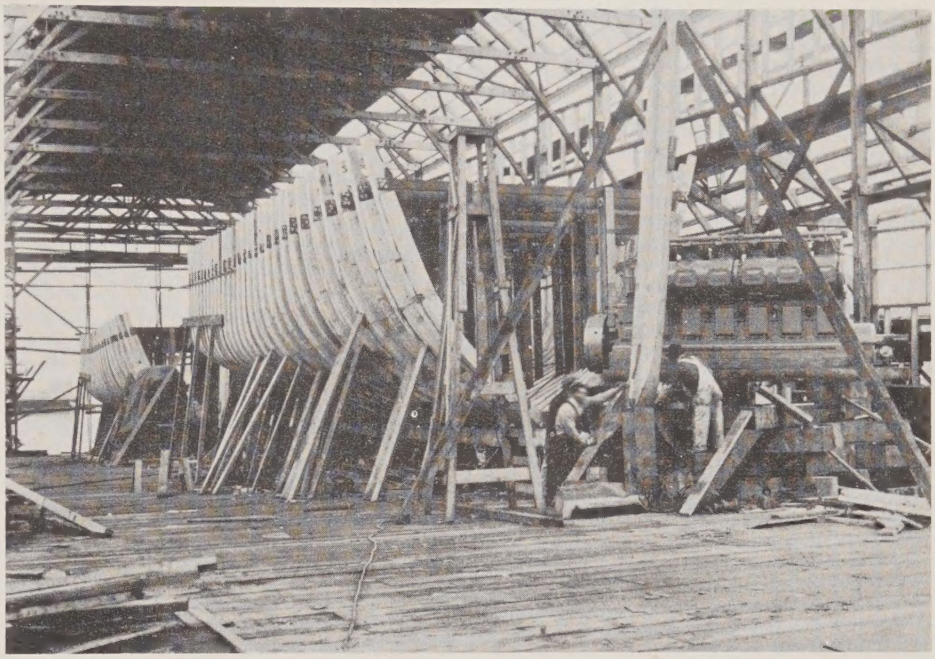
—Continued from page 2, column 3

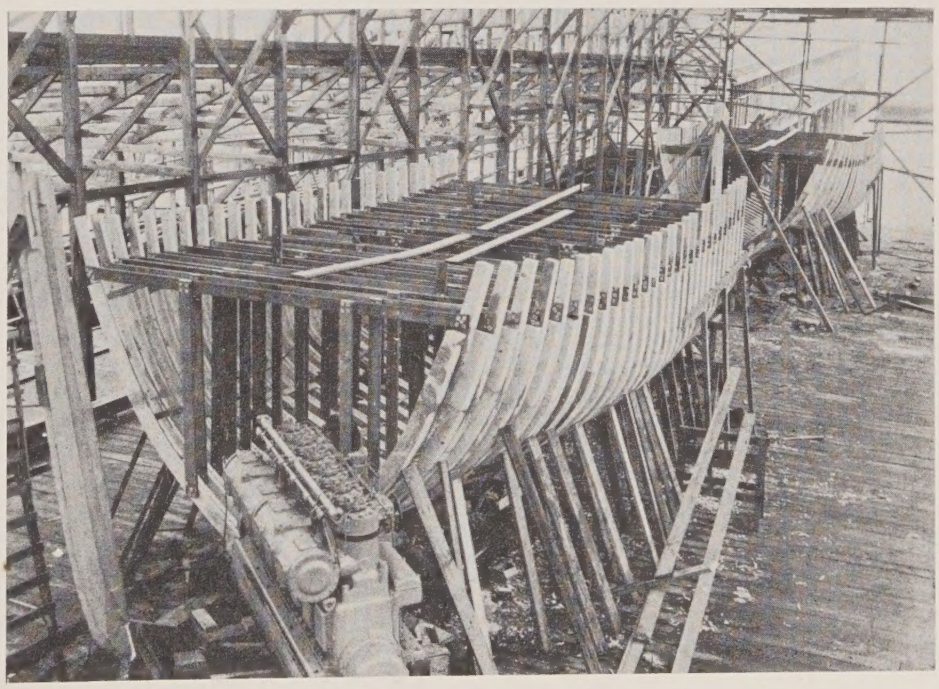
and poundage fees and enable an effective fisheries research and conservation program. This year the supplemental program calls for an appropriation of $900,000 over and above such receipts, and informed officials told members of Oregon's fishery delegation on its recent visit to Olympia that the appropriation will be approved.

The Oregon Fish Commission is making a far, far more modest request for research and new hatcheries. Its hatchery system has done wonders in building up the fall salmon runs but the problem of maintaining the spring runs are far more complex and costly and, as we pointed out, outside the control of the industry. They can only be met by a businesslike and expanded program of propagation and restocking, and an industry which must pay its full share of all other taxes, just like any other business in Oregon, cannot do that in the face of declining receipts out of which it must pay tithing funds, and for its own police protection.

No one has a tenth as much interest in conservation of our fishery resource as the industry itself. Once the resource is gone its entire investment is worthless and those who are now engaged in the business must turn to other fields of endeavor. They want to conserve for use, not just to conserve for the sake of conservation, and their way to this goal is not to be cutting here and eliminating there, but by hatching and planting plenty of fish so that industry can have a healthy and perpetual life and our streams will be filled with enough fish for the commercial and sports fishermen alike. We believe that no dollar of Oregon public money will be so well invested as in an appropriation designed to assist in this matter.

"DRAGGERS" TAKING SHAPE





Two views of the progress being made and the job of installing engines on the two 76 foot modern drag boats being built by CRPA ship. The "Kiska" in the foreground is a little further on than her sister ship seen to the rear.

Fine Flavored Smelt runs on

The runs of smelt have now started in the Columbia River and are divided into three distinct cycles. The first run extends up the Columbia River for a distance of approximately 40-50 miles from the sea, and is fished by gill net fishermen, who use a special cotton web net. When good hauls are made the entire net is removed to a scow, where the fish are shaken from the net. The smelt are washed and packed in 50 pound wooden boxes for shipment to fresh trade markets. The bulk of the early runs move to fresh market channels until the volume reaches a point where fresh sales will not absorb the quantities available. As the second and third runs begin the smelt enter the tributary streams of the Columbia River where the practice of dip net fishing is employed. These late runs usually produce the bulk of production for the season.

Practice for the past two years has been to dress and freeze surplus quantities of smelt, this being a considerable factor in stabilizing the market prices. This freezing development affords employment for many cannery workers, where the fish is washed, dressed and packed for freezing.

Last year the Army made heavy purchases of frozen smelt for domestic consumption, while this year some quantities will be packed for export shipment.

Our Company plans to start freezing smelt in five pound cartons for the domestic trade, and offerings will be made upon receipt of established selling prices from the OPA for this particular type of frozen package.

These fish usually run eight or nine to the pound, are very fat and have a fine delicate flavor, the demand for which has increased from year to year. We are looking forward to the time when they can be merchandised in frozen package form, along with the many other frozen items which are now available from the Columbia River district.

Crab Production due to Increase in Coming Month

Crab production was moving forward as the month closed. February saw a daily pick of about 200 dozen in CRPA plants but production was still being absorbed by the fresh market and no meat was going into the freezers for frozen package marketing.

With the improvement of weather conditions this production was expected to greatly increase shortly after the first of March when fishermen will be able to make daily rounds of their crab pots. CRPA's crab pack, fresh, frozen, or canned, of the Dungeness crab, is carried on with the same insistence on the high standards of sanitation and consistent quality, that has made its packs of salmon, albacore tuna, and other fishery products, leaders in the country's markets.

The crab meat is cooked in the shell. They are placed in clean metal racks and cooked in large retorts under pressure. Following the cooking the flaky white meat is picked from the shell and prepared for the markets.

Smelt Fisherman Emmet Stubblefield, armed with dip net, is loading his boat with wriggling smelt. Most of these fish go direct to the fresh market while the surplus is processed and frozen for the army or domestic trade.

Columbia River smelt fisherman loading his catch of silvery smelt into boxes for shipment to processors or market.